

## **Ladybug Camp Trail**

Medium hike and good for Webelos too.

**Trail Type: Out and Back**

**Skill Level: Moderate**

**Distance: 3.4 miles**

**Trail Head Elevation: 3640 feet**

**Elevation Gain: 640 feet**

**Trailhead coordinates: 36° 21' 00.70"N 118° 45' 56.86"W**



**To get to the trailhead:** Take State Highway 198 from Visalia towards Three Rivers. Turn right onto Old Three Rivers Road. Continue for about 0.5 miles to South Fork Road and turn right. The trailhead is 9 miles at the end of South Fork Road. Parts are unpaved and rough.

### **Trail Description**

Ladybug Trail starts from the end of the South Fork Road at the east end of South Fork Campground. Overnight backpackers can get a wilderness permit at the Ash Mountain Wilderness Office between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm the day of their hike, or after 1:00 pm the day before their hike. Day hikers do not need a wilderness permit. Parking is at the trailhead.

**0.00 miles--3,640 ft elevation:** The start of the Ladybug Trail. There is a small corral here which is open to the public. The corral has a hay and water trough.

**0.04 miles:** Clough Cave Bridge.

**0.46miles--3,840 ft elevation:** Pigeon Creek. This small creek is dry for most of the year. During the winter after a heavy rainfall or when the snow melts it does have water in it.

**0.49 miles:** The trail reaches the base of Bone Hill. Just after the trail starts to climb this hill there is a small unmarked trail to the right. This trail goes up the river a short distance to a rocky bench along the river. This area is known as Putnam Flat. There are several large pools in the river here where you can fish or swim. Above Putnam Flat the river enters a steep sided gorge.

**0.71 miles:** The trail reaches the top of Bone Hill. Viewpoint. To the northeast Homers Nose comes into view for the first time.

**0.92 miles--4,120 ft elevation:** Squaw Creek. This little creek flows all year. A short distance up the canyon the creek disappears underground. This is not uncommon for Sierra foothill streams.

**1.26 miles:** Small dry canyon. There is a large cedar tree below the trail here. This is the closest point to the river between Bone Hill and Ladybug Camp. No camping is allowed here. The trail now climbs steeply through an open slide area.

**1.56 miles:** Enter black oak forest.

**1.70 miles--4,280 ft elevation:** Ladybug Camp. This is the first area along the trail where camping is allowed. Elevation gain to here is only 640 feet. Camping, swimming, and fishing are permitted. Many young sequoias are located along the river here.